

Utah Board of Juvenile Justice Minutes

Committee	Utah Board of Juvenile Justice
Date	Thursday August 21, 2014
Time	8am – 9:30 a.m.
Location	Utah State Capitol Complex, Senate Bldg., Copper Room
Members Present	Pat Berckman, Donovan Bergstrom, Karen Crompton, Chris Crowder, Patrick Garcia, Gini Highfield, Nindy Le, Judge James Michie, Van Nguyen, Pam Vickrey
Members Excused	Scott Jackson, Spencer Larsen, Troy Rawlings, Shirlee Silversmith, Rachael Skidmore
Members Absent	Anthony Johnson, Brent Platt
Staff	Reg Garff, Jo Lynn Kruse, Cuong Nguyen, Jennifer Valencia Visitors: Sariah Donnahoo
Agenda Item	Welcome and Chair's Report
Notes	Karen Crompton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Judge Michie made the motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Donovan Bergstrom seconded the motion which passed unanimously . Reg noted there is a copy of the UBJJ/DMC response letter to the letter we received last month from the AOC and DJJS regarding their decision not to implement the cultural competency curriculum.
Agenda Item	PEW Conference (tape 17:00)
Notes	<p>Reg and others attended a PEW Conference on Juvenile Justice in Burlington, Vermont in July.</p> <p>Reg discussed the <i>Overuse of Detention</i> from the Annie E. Casey Foundation <i>No Place For Kids</i>. Problems at facilities could include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous – possible physical, psychological and sexual abuse • Ineffective – can increase recidivism • Unnecessary – many youth confined pose minimal risk to public safety • Obsolete – many more community-based interventions and treatments now available • Wasteful – very expensive • Inadequate – many still do not address the needs of youth <p>Reg talked about the <i>Theory of Desistance</i> and what we can learn from it. Desistance theory is research to explore factors which lead to desistance amongst offenders. It is not easy to study about something that has “stopped”. However, there is an obvious relationship between age and crime. Youth eventually mature and break from offending. Reg displayed a graph that shows high delinquency dramatically drops at the age of 17. The conclusions we can glean from desistance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer stays in correctional institutions do not reduce recidivism • Community-based supervision as a component of aftercare is effective for youth who have committed serious offenses • Substance abuse treatment reduces both substance use and criminal offending <p>In deciding what the punishment for delinquency should be, we should always ask the question Are we afraid of this individual? Or Are we mad at this individual? Answering that question can help determine appropriate placement or action.</p> <p>Donovan Bergstrom discussed a white paper titled <i>Core Principles for Reducing Recidivism and Improving Other Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System</i>, a project of the CSG Justice Center. The four principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base supervision, service, and resource-allocation decisions on the results of validated risk and needs assessments • Adopt and effectively implement programs and services demonstrated to reduce recidivism and improve other youth outcomes, and use data to evaluate the results and direct system improvements • Employ a coordinated approach across service systems to address youth's needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailor system policies, programs, and supervision to reflect the distinct developmental needs of adolescents.
Agenda Item	CJJ Position Statements (tape 2:00)
Notes	There are twelve position statements that were approved by the Council of SAG's at the June meeting in DC. Reg noted that the narrative with each needs editing. Reg reviewed the narrative with the Board and revised parts of the language that was negative, accusatory or less than positive. Revisions need to be complete by the first week in September.
Agenda Item	Youth Promise Act (tape 56:30)
Notes	Pat Berckman discussed the Youth Promise Act, which is a bipartisan piece of legislation introduced by Congressman Robert C. Scott (D-VA) and Congressman Walter Jones (R-NC). The bill aims to reduce youth violence by engaging communities that are most at risk of youth violence and victimization. Pat noted that she spoke to Sharon Garn from Senator Hatch's office in support of the Bill in July and also voiced support for the reauthorization of the OJJDP Act. Reg will put together a report to weigh in on the issue.
Agenda Item	Commitment of State Prisoners Younger than Age 18 to Juvenile Facilities (tape 1:10)
Notes	Reg presented draft legislation from SWAP that would take youth who are sent to adult court by certification, direct file or through SYO (Serious Youth Offenders) to be ordered to JJS instead of prison until they are the age of 18. No consensus was reached on the issue. Our goal is to keep the youth where they need to be and to let the judge have discretion. Utah's juvenile justice system provides effective treatment and holds youth accountable. There are some in the public that have an opinion contrary to this. There is a need to better educate the public that the juvenile justice system protects public safety.
Next Meeting	The next meeting is scheduled at 8:00 am, Thursday, September 18, 2014, Utah State Capitol Complex, Senate Building, Copper Room, Salt Lake City, Utah

Minutes prepared by Jo Lynn Kruse – Administrative Assistant